

HOUSE BILL 163

By Cooper

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39;
Title 40 and Title 41, relative to criminal law.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 40, Chapter 14, Part 1, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

The defendant's counsel, whether the counsel is employed by the defendant or appointed by the court, must meet with the defendant at least three (3) times prior to the defendant being tried for the offense. If the defendant's counsel has not met with the defendant at least three (3) times prior to the commencement of the criminal trial, the court must require the defense counsel to show good cause for failure to satisfy the requirements of this section.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect July 1, 2021, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to criminal trials commenced on or after that date.